Ms. A. 4. 1.27

Leicester, March 16. 1847.

My dear Sir,

I once borrowed a book of you (which previously belonged to your father) which gave a full account of the debates in the Massachusetts Convention on the adoption of the Constitution. - I thought I had made extracts, & made such minutes, from the book as would be likely to be serviceable to me. If I did, I have lost them. And now, if it will not put you to too much trouble, I would ask you to give me a few facts from that volume - (I returned it to you, at Lexington.) I wish to get now the final vote, in that Convention, on agreeing to the Constitution. I wish to get 1. the precise form of the question put, and 2. the State of the vote; and 3. the number of Yeas & Nays from each County - for, if I correctly remember, the Vote is given arranged by Counties. If you could let me have this soon, it would much oblige me. I never saw any other copy of the book but yours.

I came from Brooklyn yesterday. I have preached there, with 2 exceptions, every Sunday of this year; one Sunday I exchanged with C. A. Farley, (Norwich), and on the other, I excused myself from going, as I had been the week previous (most of it) in Boston, attending Annual Meeting of Mass: A. S. Society. I have spent the whole of 2 weeks there, and parts of 2 others, making about 3 weeks for visiting, &c., and I am expecting to be there all next week. It would be

best, however, when you write, to direct to me at Leicester. — Fast Day in Ct. comes April 2d; and, at my suggestion, the Annual Meeting of the Windham Co. A. S. Society is to be held on that day in Brooklyn. It was to have been held in B., at any rate, and at about that time. I wish you could be there.

I found that Dr. Whitcomb had recently rec'd a letter from you, which he showed to me. I must thank you for your warm commendation of me. It far outweighs the coldness and malice of the trimmers, who are thick enough in our ranks. — I should, on many accounts, find a residence in B. pleasant, and I might find an open field for labors; but I am far from being so sanguine in this latter particular as the Dr. & some others there are. The policy of not hearing the advocates of Anti-Slavery, of Anti-Cap.-Punt., and Anti-War principles prevails pretty generally in Windham Co., I suspect. But I have many reasons which weigh strongly with me against going there; and, as at present situated, I cannot feel that it would be right for me to go there. I noticed particularly what you say of Mr. Ferris. You of course know, better than we can here, how far he is prepared to meet such a state of things as exists in Brooklyn & vicinity. Every consideration leads me to think favorably of his coming, and I was glad to see that Dr. W. felt the same. He will probably write you soon. He is very busy now. — I am endeavoring to sell my place in Leicester; as yet, I am without a purchaser.

You have noticed the letter in the "Liberator", doubtless, about the Unitarians & Slavery. 'A' is Wm. P. Atkinson, now of N. Bedford, son-in-law of Dr. Parkman (!!) [Alas! for that poor man how he is surrounded with pestilent heresy, & contempt of his

word & commandment!] I have had a private letter from Atkinson, he is knowing to the facts about Dr. Whitridge, a brother of whom resides in N. Bedford. Dr. Whitridge left the Church, in N. B., when Mr. Furness was arguing the Sinfulness of Slaveholding!! He owns 120 to 150 slaves. A fine man, indeed, for the Unitarians to honor! Are you coming on to the May anniversaries? Another effort must be made to purify the A.U.A., or make it take, in face of all the world, an out & out pro-Slavery position; this dodging & equivocating is quite too bad, & we have had quite too much of it. I hope you'll come on. If you don't, I shall be glad of any suggestions from you. Surely the least we can ask is that no Slaveholder shall be made an officer, and that no direct countenance be given to Slavery.

I have not yet acknowledged receiving yours of Jan. 11th — it came duly to hand, & gave us much pleasure, both in Leicester & Brooklyn. The pamphlet-sermons, & the one on "Festivals," &c came duly to hand. Have you heard any more about Tilden's leaving Concord? and, if so, what he means to do?

In a previous letter of yours (written last fall) you earnestly exhort me to continue in the ministry. I confess, I am strongly inclined still to leave the "stated" ministry, — for I am often ~~sickened~~ brought ~~almost~~ to believe that, in some respects, it is a barrier to my fulfilling the true ministry. It prevents my access to some minds which, otherwise, I might reach; perhaps, on the other hand, it gives me access to some I could not reach under other circumstances. Whatever post I may occupy, whatever situation in life I may be in, I hope not to be found faithless or idle in behalf of the true object of Christianity. Does not

our remaining in the ministry — I speak of you, and Mr. Furness, and Mr. Stetson, and Tilden, and about half a dozen more, & I will not exclude myself — does it not, in the eye of the world, give some countenance to the pro-slavery priests who are Legion? at least, are we not identified, in considerable measure, with them? — My successor here (F. Hinkley) is a very clever fellow. He is bold, very fearless, determined to espouse ~~all~~ and advocate all the truth he can find, and to keep his mind open to find it. — With such men, or with 25 such, we could shake every vestige of pro-slavery out of the A. U. A. — (of which he, by the way, is not a member, he told me.)

I hope you will go to Boston, at Anniversary time? Can't you? — My wife desires her love to you all. My children are somewhat troubled with colds & coughs. Otherwise we are well.

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Did you know George Scarborough was the owner of a Slave, or Slaves? Even so. — His brother Perrin does not like it very well. Olive Gilbert, who went out to see George last December, does not like the place & the ways, and is coming back in the early Spring. Perrin is a regular Comeouter, and an anti-Sabbath man. He rarely comes to meeting, on Sunday. Henry Grew's book converted him. Philip S. has not been at meeting ~~since~~ since I have preached at B., nor have I seen him, except once at his own house. Theodore S. is very sick with a spinal disease, — confined to the bed nearly the whole time. Lucy S. is keeping school at Hingham. Catherine S. returns home this week, to pass the summer. Herbert is at home, pretty well. Mrs. S. and Theodore's wife & Herbert came to meeting, the 2d as often as he can, the other pretty steadily. John Gray has hired a house in Worcester, & will soon remove his family thither. He will be quite a loss to the Brooklyn Society.

With sincere affection to Cousin Loretta, & your children, Ever yours
Sam. May Jr.